GENERAL NOTES

Conducted by M. H. Swenk

A Late Date for the Chimney Swift in Indiana.—Last fall (1931) during a warm spell, we saw a pair of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagica*) fluttering in the air one Sunday afternoon, and the date was November 20. That was the latest record I have ever known these birds to be seen in this part of the country.—Mrs. Horace P. Cook, *Anderson, Ind.*

Two Iowa Duck Records.—On November 15, 1928, Dr. E. M. MacEwen shot a duck near Lone Tree, Iowa, that was identified as a cross between a Mallard and a Pintail. The duck was sent to W. T. Hornaday, who verified the identification. It is now on display at the University of Iowa.

In the fall of 1931 a duck was shot by a Mr. Wendell of Estherville, Iowa, which was probably a Fulvous Tree Duck (*Dendrocygna fulva*). The duck was taken to F. P. Hopkins of Spirit Lake. While Mr. Hopkins is not an ornithologist he is a very careful amateur ichthyologist and understands the importance of care in identifying unusual species. He said that the duck was shot from a tree. Its legs were about twice as long as those of a teal and blue-black in color. Its bill was short, dark and somewhat broad. The rest of the description also fitted the Fulvous Tree Duck exactly. Unfortunately the duck was not saved. I believe that this bird should be included in future state lists as a hypothetical record.—F. L. R. Roberts, *Iowa City, Iowa.*

Great Horned Owls Dying in the Wild from Diseases.—On February 21, 1932, in the course of some raptor studies east of Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin, a nesting Great Horned Owl (feathers plucked from underparts) was found freshly dead and intact beneath a favorite roost tree. It lay with ventral surface on the ground, wings partially spread and talons about half closed. Careful examination preceded by plucking proved that the bird was in full flesh and bore no external injuries of any sort. Hippoboscid (blood sucking) flies off the carcass were conspicuous and active. The most recent pellet was smaller than the usual size, and, judging by the mucus, probably less than forty-eight hours old.

This owl was sent to Dr. R. G. Green, Univeristy of Minnesota bacteriologist, who has been making a specialty of wild life diseases. He reported in a letter: "The liver was normal in size, showed some congestion and numerous fine necrotic areas. The spleen was greatly enlarged and thickly packed with small discrete abscesses of varying size. All other organs appeared normal." A captive Great Horned Owl and a Screech Owl succumbed to inoculation with infective material. A captive Barred Owl, likewise inoculated, seemed immune. Dr. Green told me orally that the disease was not tularemia (to which none of his experimental raptors have as yet shown susceptibility), and that the evidence indicates a virus, possibly specific for certain owls. He will publish elsewhere the technical data from his investigation.

Unfortunately, I did not again visit the owl territory until April 6, when the remains of the second Great Horned Owl—the mate of the first—were discovered, also under one of the habitually used roost trees. Only the wings and a picked and bleached sternum could be located, so the specimen cannot be said to have had more than limited diagnostic value. At any rate, both members of the pair were then accounted for; both apparently dead within a short time of each other, presumably victims of the same contagion.—Paul L. Errington, *Madison, Wis.*